

REMARKS

Prior to this Amendment, Claims 1-9 were pending in this application. Claim 3 is objected to for informalities. Claims 1, 4, and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (hereinafter, "AAPA") in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,678,393 to Newell. Claims 2 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA and Newell in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,901,347 to Chambers et al. Claims 5 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA and Newell in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0186799 to Sayeed. Claims 3 and 6 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

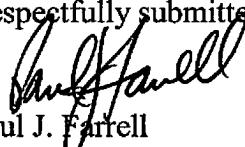
As indicated above, Claims 1 and 7-9 have been amended. Claim 6 has been cancelled. No new matter has been presented. Claims 1-5 and 7-9 are now pending, with Claims 1 and 7 as independent claims.

Regarding the §103(a) rejection of independent Claims 1 and 7, these claims have been amended to incorporate the limitations of Claim 6, which has been found to include allowable subject matter. Therefore, amended Claims 1 and 7 are patentable over the prior art. Accordingly, withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection of independent Claims 1 and 7 is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-5 and 8-9 are dependent claims, and are believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the reasons given above with regard to their respective independent Claims 1 and 7.

Accordingly, all of the claims pending in the Application, namely, Claims 1-5 and 7-9 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicants' attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,


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